

behind a proud and lasting legacy. The crowning achievement of an environmentalist is to leave the earth a little cleaner, a little greener and a little brighter than when they started. Ruth Galanter has accomplished this and more.

BURMA MUST STOP ITS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IMMEDIATELY

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of the despicable attack on a key democratic figure in Burma, Aung San Suu Kyi, by Than Shwe and his brutal military regime.

A few days ago, the political arm of Than Shwe's regime, the Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA), launched an attack against Aung San Suu Kyi's motorcade as she was traveling to give a speech about freedom in Burma. After stopping the motorcade and wielding machetes and sticks, USDA members beat on the doors of the motorcade and attempted to steal cameras and other items.

This is only one of many recent occasions in which the USDA has harassed and intimidated Aung San Suu Kyi, her political opposition group called the National League for Democracy (NLD), and their supporters. In order to interfere with her efforts to speak about democratization in Burma, the regime has threatened her supporters with water hoses on fire trucks and blared loud music so that others cannot hear her speeches. Authorities have repeatedly deterred and prevented her supporters from attending her speeches by threatening them with arrest, and have turned back several busloads full of people.

I find it appalling that Than Shwe's soldiers would threaten one of the world's great freedom fighters with blunt weapons. Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD are the legitimately elected leaders of their country—they won 82 percent of the seats in parliament in an internationally recognized election, even though the regime refuses to recognize the results. As an elected Representative of the citizens of Massachusetts, I simply cannot stand by while men like Than Shwe so grossly violate the very principles upon which this House was built.

Than Shwe continues to terrorize the population of Burma. He and his regime have forced much of the population into modern-day slave labor, locked up about 1,400 political prisoners including students, monks, nuns, and 18 members of parliament, and recruited an astounding 70,000 child soldiers—far more than any other country in the world. Perhaps most disturbing, our own State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Rights, and Labor conducted an impressive investigation into rapes in Burma that confirmed the regime is using rape as a weapon of war. As we learned from Bosnia, using rape as a weapon is a war crime, and Than Shwe and his cronies should be brought to justice.

Most importantly, Burma's regime has proven that its words cannot be taken seriously. It has denied the use of rape as a weapon, stat-

ed that it has no child soldiers, and refuses to acknowledge the detention and torture of political prisoners. For this reason, it should not be surprising that Than Shwe has ignored the promise he made over a year ago to enter into a dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi, facilitated by the United Nations, aimed at a transition to freedom and democracy. Instead, he has flaunted the good-faith efforts of the United Nations Special Envoy to Burma, Razali Ismail, and by extension, the entire United Nations General Assembly.

I urge my colleagues to join me in condemning these recent attacks and urge the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Rights, and Labor to register our condemnation of the regime at the highest levels.

TRIBUTE HONORING SHARON COOK OF NAPOLEON, MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sharon Cook, an outstanding educator from Napoleon, Michigan, who is retiring after 31 years of teaching.

Sharon graduated from Napoleon High School in 1965 and attended Western Michigan University, where she majored in English and earned her K-8 teaching degree. She also earned a Master's of Education Degree from Eastern Michigan University. After teaching in the elementary school for a number of years, Sharon transferred to the Middle School, where she taught Math and Language Arts.

In addition to her classroom responsibilities, she has coached girl's track, Basketball, and cheerleading for both football and basketball. Sharon has also served as Yearbook and Newspaper Advisor, as well as Service Squad and Class Advisor. She has also coached Michigan Mathematics League teams, reaching state level competition in 1987.

As an educator, Sharon Clark realizes the importance of helping young teachers establish themselves in the classroom and has served as a Mentor Teacher to newly hired teachers at Napoleon.

Perhaps most important is Sharon's dedication to community service. For many years, she has served as Student Council Advisor and encouraged her students to be active in many community projects. With her help, students in Napoleon have collected food for Thanksgiving Food Baskets, conducted Penny Wars for Christmas Giving, Angel Trees for children of prisoners, and most recently, packages for our armed service men and women currently serving in Operation Freedom in Iraq.

In a time when highly qualified teachers who motivate are so important, pleased to honor this outstanding educator on the occasion of her retirement. Sharon has dedicated 31 years in service to the students of Napoleon Community Schools and the community at large.

STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR PUBLIC ATTORNEYS

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act.

Throughout the country, District Attorneys are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain qualified and experienced attorneys. Recent law school graduates face difficult choices regarding their legal careers. While a starting salary at a private law firm now often exceeds \$100,000, the average starting salary in a district attorneys office is approximately \$35,000.

With undergraduate and law school loans frequently amounting to \$100,000, aspiring public attorneys face a crippling debt burden that drives them to other career choices. This financial burden likely hits minority students even harder and makes their decisions about a public service career that much more difficult. A system of continual turnover severely impact on law enforcement and the ability to ensure justice.

Due to the increasing fiscal constraints faced at the state and local level, public officials are unable to raise salaries to a competitive level. More than ever, America needs an effective justice system. The Department of Justice has recognized that public defenders and prosecutors should have access to student loan forgiveness programs as an important means of reducing staff turnover.

Under my legislation, a recently-recruited public attorney would enter a written agreement that specified that he or she would remain employed as a prosecutor or public defender for a required period of service of not less than 3 years, unless involuntarily separated from employment. If the attorney is involuntarily separated from employment on account of misconduct, or voluntarily separates from that employment before the end of the period specified in the agreement, the individual would be required to repay the amount of any benefits received. Successive agreements could be made to continue the loan payments until the maximum amount authorized is reached.

Under the proposal, the Secretary of Education would make the loan payments for the attorney for the period of the agreement if the funds were made available through appropriations. Students loan repayments would not exceed \$6,000 for any borrower in any calendar year or a total of \$40,000 in the case of any borrower. This legislation is supported by the National District Attorneys Association.

I hope my colleagues will join me by supporting and cosponsoring this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE STUDENTS FROM FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL IN PORTLAND, OREGON

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, on April 15, 2003 students from Franklin High School

in Portland, Oregon captured first place in the 2003 Unisys Corporation Prize in the Online Science Education competition, administered by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Working with the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI), the Franklin High School team placed above nine other entries, all of which were charged with conducting scientific inquiry on flight and presenting their findings on the Internet.

This contest is part of a national science project sponsored by AAAS, the Franklin Institute Science Museum, and Unisys Corporation in affiliation with the Science Learning Network. The competition allows students to learn about science and technology while raising public awareness of the need for improved science education while fostering relationships between community museums and local students. Each group of students entering the competition is partnered with a local museum to conduct scientific experiments and create a Web site.

The team from Franklin High School explored flight through several projects—from participating in a teleconference with NASA's Johnson Space Center to conducting a glider design competition. The gliders were built with the help of software which allowed the students to adjust wing length, angle, nose weight, and a variety of other factors on a "virtual glider" to see which designs would fly. Their efforts were shared via the Internet with students and teachers from across the country.

Fifty-one students from Franklin High School participated in this competition: Alisa Bayona, Camille Buckles, Ryan Buckmier, Carlos Camargo-Ciriaco, Trisha Cates, Dara Chan, Sarah Combs, Dustin Conant, Miguel Couto, Itzia De Anda, David Galloni, Suzanne Hansen, Brandon Harris, Jack Healy, Yadira Herrera, Kenneth Hughes, Josh Kizaway, Melissa Larkin, Brandon Lewis, Jesse McKenzie, Joshua Pangelinan, Ben Pharis, Kendall Stout, Jessica Strom, Ryan Waltz, Jason Yu, Tim Crowell, Angelina Dudley, Donald Fitzjarrell, Candyce Harris, Sean Johnson, Kashius Lewis, Ryan Nate Lewis, Kandie Madden, Ryan Manansala, Brittni McComb, Will Mullen, Jackie Myers, Mike Owens, Ben Pharis, Lynea Price, Whitney Ramirez, Jessica Reitan, Sara Ruecker, Oleg Shcherbina, Austin Stoner, Efrain Tapia, Lisa Trump, Chris Wiseman, Jasmine Woodfork-Moore, Liliya Zaytseva.

TRIENNIAL REVIEW

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked the third month anniversary since the Federal communications Commission, FCC, voted to approve its controversial Triennial Review decision and still no written order has been issued by the Commission. I think many of us in this Chamber find it incredible that our troops invaded Iraq and ousted Saddam Hussein in less time than it takes for the FCC to write an order on which it has already agreed. This delay leaves an important segment of our economy and its employees in legal and economic limbo.

Mr. Speaker, the Triennial Review offered the FCC the unique opportunity to boost the nation's economy and not only save jobs—but create jobs as well. The Commission, however, responded to the challenge by issuing a ruling that is contradictory—largely deregulating broadband on one hand while, on the other, continuing the enormous regulatory burden of requiring large local phone companies to lease their lines at below cost rates to competitors.

In conclusion, the FCC has succeeded in creating uncertainty in the marketplace, and uncertainty on Wall Street typically converts to financial disaster. The order that is now being written at the FCC will consist of several hundred pages of regulatory detail. And as we know when dealing with the Federal bureaucracy, the devil is most definitely in the detail. I urge the Commission and its staff to finish its work on the Triennial Review order as quickly as possible so we can begin the tedious legal process of examining these details. Let us not forget that the jobs of thousands of hard working men and women, and the renewed health of our Nation's economy, are at stake.

PORT SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2003

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce a bill entitled the "Port Security Improvements Act of 2003." I am pleased to have five other original co-sponsors of this bi-partisan legislation, including: JOHN TIERNEY, who is the Ranking Member of the Government Reform Subcommittee which I chair; BILL JANKLOW, who is the Vice Chairman of my Subcommittee; and JANE HARMAN, who ably represents the Port of Los Angeles.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 shook the confidence of the U.S. government and its citizens in the Nation's security. On November 19, 2001, the President signed the Aviation and Transportation Security Act. This law established "emergency procedures" for the Federal Government to issue interim final regulations without the usual opportunity for public notice and comment, as provided in the Administrative Procedure Act. To ensure Congressional and public input into the regulatory decisionmaking process, the Government Reform Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs, which I chair, held a November 27th hearing entitled "What Regulations are Needed to Ensure Air Security?"

Congress then turned its attention to port security. On November 25, 2002, the President signed the Maritime Transportation Security Act. This law similarly provided for some interim final regulations without any public notice and comment but did not establish deadlines for their issuance. To provide Congressional and public input into the regulatory decisionmaking process, my Subcommittee held an April 24, 2003, hearing entitled "What Regulations are Needed to Ensure Port Security?"

The U.S. maritime system includes more than 300 ports with more than 3,700 cargo and passenger terminals. The vast maritime

system is particularly susceptible to terrorist attempts to smuggle personnel, weapons of mass destruction, or other dangerous materials into the U.S. And, terrorists could attack ships in U.S. ports. A large-scale terrorist attack at a U.S. port would cause widespread damage and seriously affect our economy.

To date, Congress has provided extensive Federal funding to fully ensure air security. In contrast, Congress has not provided sufficient Federal funding to fully ensure port security.

The witnesses at my Subcommittee hearing made several thoughtful recommendations, including: (a) the urgency for the Department of Homeland Security to issue a regulation governing a standardized "smart" common Transportation Worker Identification Credential; (b) the need for some standardization of security requirements for each U.S. port, each facility in a U.S. port, and each vessel entering a U.S. port; and, (c) the need for an additional significant Federal investment in port security. Currently, the U.S. Customs Bureau collects \$15.6 billion in duties on commodities entering the U.S. through marine transportation. My bill directs a portion of these duties toward port security enhancements. In addition, my bill sets deadlines for issuance of regulations governing transportation security cards, and requires regulations that include a national minimum set of standard security requirements for ports, facilities, and vessels.

To understand the logic for dedicating a portion of Customs duties, let's look at the Port of Los Angeles. It is the busiest port in the U.S. and the seventh busiest in the world. It encompasses 7,500 acres. In 2002, Custom duties collected in this port accounted for 32 percent of all Customs duties collected in all U.S. seaports. However, since passage of the Maritime Transportation Security Act, this port has only received a small fraction of what it needs for port security enhancements and a substantially inadequate share of the funding distributed to date relative to its importance in the commerce of this country.

Since America's ports are crucial to our economic well being, it is essential that we find the right balance between increasing port security while not impeding the flow of commerce and trade. As a Republican, I am sensitive to the costs of excessive government regulation. But, in a post September 11th world, I realize that we must take additional precautions to protect our fellow citizens and our economy. We need to make sure that our ports are safe. I am not convinced that they are safe today.

The Port Security Improvements Act will ensure that America's ports receive the security upgrades they need. This legislation links customs duties collected in our ports to investments in greater security at these ports. All of us recognize the tremendous importance that international trade plays in our economy.

RECENT COURT DECISIONS IN GUATEMALA SERIOUSLY UNDER- MINE HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply disturbed to learn that an appeals court in